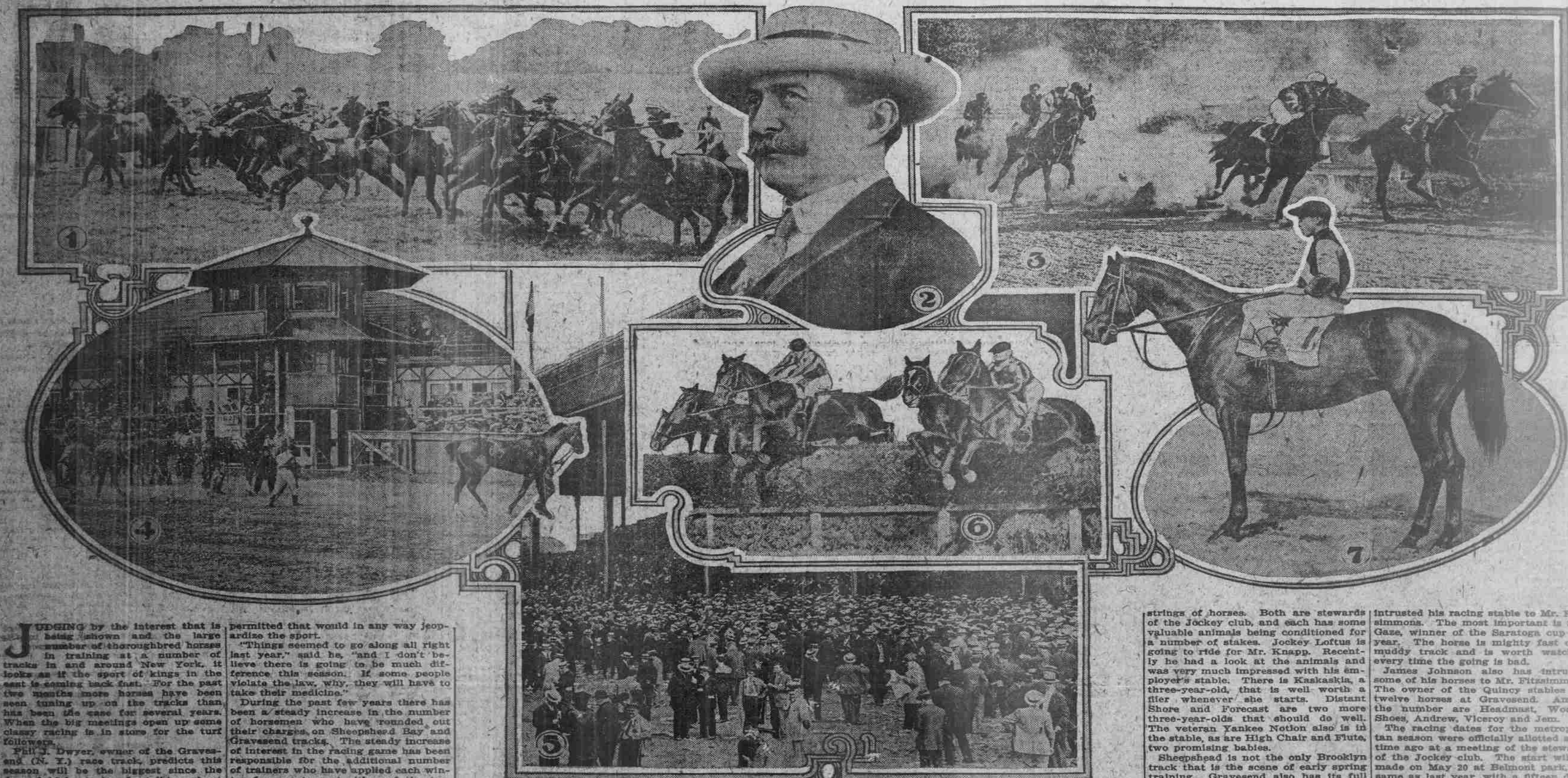


# WHAT SPORTSMEN ARE TALKING ABOUT



## 1915 Racing Season In East Promises to Be Best In Years



Photos by American Press Association.

### Familiar Scenes That Followers of Horse Racing Will See Again

1.—At the barrier. 2.—August Belmont, chairman of the Jockey club. 3.—A stirring finish. 4.—Scene at Aqueduct. 5.—Crowd scene at Belmont park. 6.—Steeplechase race. 7.—Jockey Eddie Dugan mounted on one of August Belmont's horses.

JUDGING by the interest that is being shown and the large number of thoroughbred horses in training at a number of tracks in and around New York, it looks as if the sport of kings in the east is coming back with a vengeance. For the past two months more horses have been seen tuning up on the tracks than has been the case for several years. When the big meetings open up some of the best racing in the east will be seen.

Phil J. Dwyer, owner of the Gravesend (N. Y.) race track, predicts this season will be the biggest since the day of high stools. In talking about the outlook, Dwyer said recently: "Yes, racing is gradually coming back to us. Everything points to a big season in the east, but this does not mean that the associations are going to declare big dividends next winter or that earnings will even be nearly as big as they were up to seven years ago."

"But we can expect enough public support to make it worth our while to conduct the sport by offering purses and stakes. We made expenses last year at Aqueduct."

Mr. Dwyer would not enter into a discussion regarding the betting situation. He says, as do all track owners, that the associations are not interested in betting. He doesn't believe that the system that was used in New Orleans this winter would be tolerated in the east, and he was just as certain that there wasn't going to be any display of money on the lawns where the so-called layers congregated. He admitted that he had discussed the matter with other men at the head of racing and made it very emphatic when he said that nothing was going to be

permitted that would in any way jeopardize the sport.

"Things seemed to go along all right last year," said he, "and I don't believe there is going to be much difference this season. If some people violate the law, why, they will have to take their medicine."

During the past few years there has been a steady increase in the number of horsemen who have rounded out their charges on Sheepshead Bay and Gravesend tracks. The steady increase of interest in the racing game has been responsible for the additional number of trainers who have applied each winter for quarters at either of the two tracks. The present season has been marked by an unusually large number of horses at both tracks, an indication that the racing year that opened in an informal manner with the Bowie meeting in Baltimore recently will be the greatest in the metropolitan district since the Agnew-Hart bill became a law.

August Belmont, who has been the principal figure in the fight to keep racing alive in New York state, has a big string of horses at Sheepshead. There is the mighty Rockview, a five-year-old champion, who is considered one of the best that ever swept under the wire. Rockview will bear watching this year, as he is stepping with the best of them. Stromboli also was seen. There are many who are of the opinion that this is the real star of the Belmont string. Pittergold is another veteran that is rounding into condition and should be in great shape when the season actually opens.

There is a stranger in the Belmont stable who will bear watching. He is Fenimore, a three-year-old, who recently

was shipped from England. Top Hat and Mission, two veteran jumpers, also were out, and they looked mighty good to the critical eye.

The real strength of the Belmont string is the two-year-olds. There is one filly in the lot that is continually kicking up her heels from the sheer joy of living. The little beauty has been named Malachite, and to hear the Belmont followers talk about the filly leaves the impression that she is going to be the queen of the two-year-olds this year.

Don't for a moment believe that the chairman of the jockey club has either the largest or the most important stable at Sheepshead. James Butler, who now has become an addition to the charmed circle of big racing men, has

a string of two and three year olds that should win many fat purses for the man who once fought the jockey club with the Empire City track. There are so many horses in the Butler barn that it is next to impossible to recognize and tabulate them all.

Last year Butler, who had purchased the best of the yearlings of the estate of the late James R. Keene, practically swept the field in this division. This year conditions promise to be different for the lot of youngsters owned by August Belmont, and the fact that the Keene colors will again be seen on the track means more competition, and competition, some one once said, is the life of trade.

It goes without saying that the winning of a Futurity is an important

event in the history of an owner of thoroughbreds. James Johnson, a Brooklyn racing enthusiast, turned the trick last year with Trojan. Mr. Johnson is the owner of the Quincey stable, and this year he has several horses at work on the historic track. The majority are under the watchful eye of Steve Lawler, a well known trainer. The others are being conditioned by Edward Phelan.

The majority of the horses that Phelan has under his wing are two-year-olds. Johnson hopes to find another Futurity winner in either one of the other string.

One of the best known trainers at Sheepshead is William Karkick. Among others, he has charge of Schuyler, a three-year-old, who recently won the L. Parsons and H. K. Knapp's

strings of horses. Both are stewards of the jockey club, and each has some valuable animals being conditioned for a number of stakes. Jockey Loftus is going to ride for Mr. Knapp. Recently he had a look at the animals and was very much impressed with his employer's stable. There is Kaskaskia, a three-year-old, that is well worth a flier whenever she starts. Distant Shore and Forecast are two more three-year-olds that should do well. The veteran Yankee Notion also is in the stable, as are High Chair and Flute, two promising babies.

Sheepshead is not the only Brooklyn track that is the scene of early spring training. Gravesend also has its full quota of thoroughbreds, and, if anything, the horses at the latter track are even better than the ones at the famous American Ascot. Roamer, conceded to be the champion of the 1914 season, is being put into condition for his 1915 campaign under the watchful eye of Trainer Jack Goldborough. Roamer has filled out and developed since last season and should have no difficulty in maintaining his reputation of being the greatest racing gelding since Raceland was the king of the turf some twenty years ago.

Foxhall Keene, who has taken his father's colors of white with blue polka dots, has several fast horses in the barn of Mr. Goldborough. Mr. Keene put one over on the boys when he secured the name of Tippecary for one of his colts. He is by Ben Brush, out of Acushla. All told, Mr. Goldborough is training nine two-year-olds for Mr. Keene.

James Fitzsimmons is another trainer who has an unusually large number of horses in his care. H. L. Pratt, the well known Brooklyn sportsman, has

entrusted his racing stable to Mr. Fitzsimmons. The most important is Star Gaze, winner of the Saratoga cup last year. The horse is mighty fast on a muddy track and is worth watching every time the going is bad.

James Johnson also has entrusted some of his horses to Mr. Fitzsimmons. The owner of the Quincey stables has twelve horses at Gravesend. Among the number are Headmist, Wooden Shoes, Andrew, Viceroy and Jam. The racing dates for the metropolitan season were officially allotted some time ago at a meeting of the stewards of the jockey club. The start will be made on May 20 at Belmont park; the same as last year, with a fifteen days' meeting given by the Westchester Racing association.

For the first time since 1910 racing will be resumed at the Jamaica track. The Metropolitan Jockey club has been granted dates from June 10 to June 25, and this year it will race over its own course. For the past three years it has been regularly assigned dates, but has held its meeting at Belmont park.

The Queens County Jockey club, Aqueduct, will open on June 26 and continue until July 12. As last season, the Aqueduct track gets July 4. This racing will be followed by the meeting of the Empire City Racing association at Yonkers, which will open July 14 and run to Saturday, July 31.

The Saratoga racing will run throughout the month of August, or twenty-eight days in all. Belmont park has been allotted an autumn meeting following racing at the Spa. This will start Sept. 1 and continue until Sept. 14. A two days' hunt and steeplechase meeting will be held at Piping Rock on June 2 and 3.

### KAVANAUGH MAY MAKE GOOD AT FIRST BASE FOR DETROIT TIGERS

MANAGER JENNINGS has moved Kavanagh, one of his star infielders, over to first base. This breaks up what many regarded as the best infield in the country, consisting of Burns, Young or Vitt, Bush and Moriarty. In early games, however, Ka-



Photo by American Press Association.  
KAVANAUGH.  
Kavanagh has been getting away with his new position in great shape, and there are many who predict that he will be one of the sensations of the season. The Union of Burns caused the shift in the Tigers' infield.

### NEW AMERICAN LEAGUE UMPIRE IS A SLUGGER

STORIES of the physical prowess of huge Dominick Mullaney, Ban Johnson's new umpire, are not a bit exaggerated, as some of the players in the American circuit this season can testify. Among them is Hugh High, now of the Yankees, who played left garden for the Hartford club of the Connecticut league, now the Eastern association. In 1912, while Mullaney was umpiring for Jim O'Rourke.

It was at a game in New Haven on a Saturday afternoon, Aug. 17, 1912, that Dominick almost created a pogrom on the diamond. Bridgeport was the opposing team, and a big half holiday crowd of fans was enjoying the encounter between the teams. The game ending 1 to 6 in favor of the home talent.

In the fifth inning Flick of New Haven tried to stretch a single into a double and he succeeded, through a momentary lapse upon the part of the Bridgeport center fielder. Mullaney stepped over from behind the pitcher's

box and called the play as he saw it—safe.

Bobby Stowe, the little Bridgeport levetoner, who has just landed Yale a basketball championship by his clever coaching, allowed an ugly word to slip from his lips regarding one Mullaney's standing as an umpire and a citizen. Without stopping to consider the consequences Dominick lunged his right into Stow's jaw, knocking him down.

Harry Spratt, the husky, loose jointed short fielder, formerly with the Boston Braves, went to Stow's rescue, and Dominick buffeted him under the eye, knocking him cold. By this time there were 3,000 fans swarming the field, and there were riots all over the park.

It took half an hour to quiet things. Mullaney doggedly continued to umpire and he was not molested. After the game he was arrested, and the next day the town court of West Haven, in which township the New Haven club's grounds are located, exonerated him and slapped fines on the players.

### Why Old Time Pitchers Worked More

OCCASIONALLY the oldest inhabitant begins "harking back" to the days when pitchers worked every other day and played in the outfield when not performing in the box. It is asked, "Why in the modern times are able to work but once in four or five days, resting from all labor in the interim?" The answer's easy. Pitching requirements are entirely different. Here are some of the conditions under which the hurler worked in 1876, the first year of the National league's existence:

Pitching distance, forty-five feet.

Three strikes out, nine balls allowed.

Pitcher's box six feet square.

Pitcher could take more than one step in delivering the ball.

Batter could not take first base when hit by a pitched ball.

restriction on the movements of his body in delivering the same.

Imagine the efforts of a batsman to "wait him out" until Walter wasted nine balls.

And picture the chance a runner would have to get a lead if there were no penalty on the pitcher for a false motion to first.

The miracle would be if any batsman ever got to first at all if such pitching conditions existed today. Handicapped in almost every way, pitching from a sixteen foot greater distance and laboring under increased strain, due to more scientifically developed attack at bat and on the base lines, it is no wonder the modern hurler is not able to work more than once in four days.

PITCHER BENZ NOW A GOLFER.

JOE BENZ, the Chicago American pitcher, it is said, has become a golfer, but you couldn't convince a golfer who has seen him on the links.

### HANK GOWDY NOT TEMPTED BY BIG OFFER OF FEDERAL LEAGUE

HANK GOWDY, the lanky, heavy hitting catcher of the Boston Braves, has refused a glittering offer from the Federal league and will con-



Photo by American Press Association.  
HANK GOWDY.

tinue with the Stallings champions this season. His sensational hitting in last year's world series has made him the idol of the Beantown fans.

### CONNIE MACK HAS MADE SEVERAL MISTAKES SINCE LAST SEASON

OUR old, esteemed, conservative friend, Connie Mack, who because of his dependability in the matter of interviews was the joy of Old Man Dope's heart, has gone over to the Philistines, it appears. Connie has joined to his duties as manager the role of torador, or "bull" tosser.

Connie's most noteworthy effort in this line consists in the following statement attributed to him by an eastern scribe:

"I have every reason to believe the Athletics will again win the American league pennant. I am confident that my young pitchers will make good and that what remains of my old team will be working like the champions of old."

And on the other side of the shield we find that Mack will have to face a stronger league this year minus—

One of the greatest second basemen in the game.

### Ball Players Quit Championship Club

THE disintegration of a championship baseball team does not start, as a rule, until, say, two years after the championship has been won, but here the 1915 campaign has not started, and we find that four of the leading factors in the success of the Athletics in 1914—Bender, Plank, Collins and Baker—have been allowed to depart, while several of the Braves who helped win the world's championship will be found with other clubs this season.

Three Braves Gone.

At least three members of Stallings' team who took part in the memorable clash with the Athletics in Shibe park and Fenway field will not be found in Boston uniforms this year. Whitted, the hard hitting outfielder, who was sent into the lineup when a southpaw was hurting for the opposition, is now with the Phillies. Pitcher Tom Hughes and Infielder Dugan are also gone from the Braves. Charley Deal, former American league discard, who did the pinch third basing in the world's series, and Leslie Mann, an-

other of the right hand batting outfielders, have jumped to the Reds.

Without any trouble, Stallings could have prevented the hurdling of Deal and Mann. Neither wanted to leave the Braves, but with the National league agreement upon a player limit of twenty-one it was necessary for the Miracle Man to do some cutting, and Deal and Mann were two upon whom he asked waivers.

Wanted Raise.

Regardless of that action, the two players might have remained with the Braves had they been willing to accept the terms offered, but established for a raise and, as such salary boosts were not forthcoming, they passed up the chance to get into the next world's series and hurled.

New Billiard Record.

A NEW record at English billiards has just been established by George Gray. He ran 1,051 in one inning.

### FIELDER CRAVATH, WHO HAS INVENTED NEW KIND OF GLOVE

CRAVATH, outfielder of the Philadelphia Nationals, has invented a new kind of glove for backstops. The glove is much lighter than the heavy,



Photo by American Press Association.  
FIELDER CRAVATH.

cumbersome ones now in general vogue. The padding in it consists of goat hair. He says that with his new glove the backstop will not feel a sting from the hardest pitched ball.